



# NEWS

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## **1997 NORTH AMERICAN WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT PLAN AWARDS ANNOUNCED**

U.S. Senator Don Nickles of Oklahoma and Canadian Robert Andrews are the winners of this year's International Canvasback Award, Dr. Byron K. Williams, U.S. co-chair of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan Committee, announced today. Canadian Rich Goulden will receive the National Great Blue Heron Award. Both awards are given for long-term commitment to wetlands and waterfowl conservation.

The Plan Committee presents the International Canvasback Award in recognition of long-term substantial contributions to the maintenance and implementation of the Plan throughout North America. The National Great Blue Heron Award is presented to primary participants in the Plan who have made significant long-term contributions that benefit waterfowl and other migratory bird populations of North America.

The Committee selected Senator Nickles to receive the International Canvasback Award because of concern for wetlands conservation as demonstrated by his continued enthusiastic support of funding for the North American Wetlands Conservation Act grants program.

The Act was passed in large part to support the Plan's wetlands conservation activities. Since 1991, the Act has funded 457 projects across the continent, most of them in the Plan's joint venture areas. More than 188 million Act dollars have been matched by 375 million partner dollars to protect, restore, and enhance more than 3.2 million wetland and associated upland acres in Canada and the United States. More than 20 million acres in large biosphere reserves have benefitted from various Act-supported projects in Mexico.

"The Act's grants program has provided the leverage needed to bring together people and organizations who might not have joined forces otherwise to work on a common cause: the protection of wetland habitat for wildlife and people," Williams said. "Senator Nickles has played a pivotal role in making these conservation accomplishments possible. From the beginning, he has strongly supported the Act's grant program, thus helping ensure the continued implementation of the Plan throughout North America.

"His support of Plan activities doesn't stop in Washington. He also has supported Plan initiatives in his home state of Oklahoma through such initiatives as the Deep Fork River Project in the Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture and the Hackberry Flats Project in the Playa Lakes Joint Venture."

The Committee also named Robert Andrews to receive the International Canvasback Award. "Since the inception of the Plan, Andrews has been